

school chemistry teacher, Mr. Harris, Dean Rogers at Florida State University, and her husband.

A strong advocate for STEM education, Dr. McCay has worked to establish STEM mentoring groups between faculty and new students attending the Florida Institute of Technology. Along with her colleagues she does outreach to local high schools to encourage students to consider pursuing a career in one of the STEM fields. She also coordinates a K-12 Girls in Science Summer Camp the Florida Institute of Technology.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Mary Helen McCay, as well as Dr. Dwayne McCay and the dedicated faculty of the Florida Institute of Technology, for their contributions to science and engineering, and for their commitment to inspiring young minds and future scientists of our nation.

U.S.-KAZAKHSTAN RELATIONS

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the United States, and to recognize the strong and growing relationship between our two countries.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan became an independent nation, and the United States was the first country to recognize it. Since then, over the last 26 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have built a strategic partnership based on mutual trust, commitment, and genuine friendship in order to advance our bilateral political, military and economic goals.

Over the years, a major pillar of our strategic partnership has been built on a shared interest in nuclear non-proliferation and security. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear stockpile in the world—roughly 1,410 nuclear warheads. Through President Nazarbayev's leadership, and in conjunction with the United States, Kazakhstan renounced its arsenal, became a non-nuclear state, and continues to be a leader in nuclear security.

Further, the economic ties between our two countries continue to expand, particularly in areas such as energy and investment. This is evident through our work to implement WTO obligations and improve the investment climate. In 2016, bilateral trade with Kazakhstan grew to \$1.9 billion (a 117 percent increase from 2015), supporting more than 7,000 U.S. jobs. Just last year, the USA Pavilion at Kazakhstan's International Expo showcased the successful collaboration between our two countries and paved the way for future joint projects and partnerships.

Lastly, as the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am proud of the close partnership our two nations have forged on efforts to promote peace and stability around the world. I am particularly appreciative of the role Kazakhstan has played in support of United States counter-terrorism efforts following the unforgettable attack on our homeland on September 11, 2001. President Nazarbayev's dedication to working with the United States to defeat terrorism and extre-

mism around the world is sincerely appreciated, and critical to our success.

As a testament to our long history of friendship and advancement of mutual priorities, I look forward to increasing the collaboration between our two countries in the years to come. Kazakhstan remains one of our most reliable and trusted partners throughout the world, and I am eager to watch our relationship grow in the future.

HONORING SHERIFF K.C. HAMP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary community leader, Sheriff K.C. Hamp of Tunica County, Mississippi.

Tunica County Sheriff Calvin "K.C." Hamp, known since childhood with the reversed initials K.C., is a native of Tunica County, Mississippi. K.C. is an active member of Union Street Church of Christ, where his brother, Sylvester Thomas Jr., is Pastor. He is married to Patonya Price-Hamp and has four children, two daughters, two sons and one grandson.

Sheriff Hamp was elected to his fourth term as Sheriff in November of 2015. Sheriff Hamp is a graduate of Rosa Fort High School and holds an Associates of Arts degree from Coahoma Community College. He attended the University of Mississippi to obtain his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice; moreover his training and education is ongoing.

K.C. began working with the Tunica County Sheriffs Office in 1994 and started his career in law enforcement as a Deputy Jailer. During his 20 year tenure with the Tunica County Sheriffs Office his assignments have included Patrol Supervisor, Auto Theft Investigator, D.A.R.E. Officer and Internal Affairs Investigator.

Sheriff Hamp is an organizer of the Tunica County T.R.I.A.D. and is a member of the National Sheriffs' Association, Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, MS D.A.R.E. Association, Tunica County Literacy Council and Tunica County 10-Point Coalition.

Sheriff Hamp was appointed by Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour to the following state boards: Mississippi Crime Stoppers, Advisory Council, Byrne-JAG Drug Task Force Committee and Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee, in which his appointment with the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee has continued under Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant. He also serves on the D.U.I. Advisory Task Force Committee, Mississippi Department of Corrections Oversight Task Force, Asset Forfeiture Task Force and Mississippi Child Death Review Panel.

K.C. is elected to serve as President of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association beginning June of 2016. He has served as Vice President, 2nd Vice President and 3rd Vice President.

K.C. has been a volunteer funeral director with Henderson Funeral Home in Tunica, Desoto and Panola Counties for over 25 years. He feels this is an opportunity to serve and interact with people in a time when they need a friend the most.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff K.C. Hamp for his dedication in being a respected community leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on the afternoon of Thursday, January 10, 2018 and Friday, January 11, 2018 as my mother passed away. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 8, I would have voted No; Roll Call Vote No. 9, I would have voted No; Roll Call Vote No. 10, I would have voted No; Roll Call Vote No. 11, I would have voted No; Roll Call Vote No. 12, I would have voted Yes; Roll Call Vote No. 13, I would have voted Yes; Roll Call Vote No. 14, I would have voted Yes; Roll Call Vote No. 15, I would have voted Yes; Roll Call Vote No. 16, I would have voted No; and Roll Call Vote No. 17, I would have voted Yes.

IN HONOR OF 2018 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE RON HORNADAY JR.

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the racing legend Ron Hornaday Jr. upon his induction into the ninth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Ever since his early days it was clear that Ron Hornaday Jr. was born to race. A second generation racer, he was destined for high speed. Success followed him through every step of his journey which culminated in one of the most impressive careers in NASCAR Truck Series history.

Upon his retirement, Ron Hornaday Jr. had amassed 51 total wins, 360 starts and 27 pole positions. His accomplishments also include holding 158 top fives and 234 top 10s in the Truck Series, both all-time marks. Additionally, Ron Hornaday Jr. won five straight Truck Series races, which has only been achieved three other times in NASCAR national series history. With the heart of a true champion, Ron Hornaday Jr. is the embodiment of racing and will now take his place among the greats in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

This year's class was selected by a comprehensive voting panel that included track owners, retired competitors, industry leaders, members of the media, and a nationwide fan vote. In total, a group of five was chosen to join the ranks of other NASCAR legends in the Hall of Fame. Ron Hornaday Jr. is especially deserving of this honor and will now be enshrined forever for his contributions to the sport.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Ron Hornaday Jr. on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF JAMES AND DIANE
LUDDECKE ON THEIR RETIRE-
MENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank two outstanding civil servants, James and Diane Luddecke, at the time of their joint retirement, for their many years of service to the people of my hometown, Vernon, CT. The couple has been employed in the town Finance Department for over 30 years; James as the finance director and Diane as a budget analyst.

Their diligent work managing the town's finances during often challenging times is a model of professional and nonpartisan civil service that has always been focused on the public good. Jim's leadership extended beyond the town with his active participation in the statewide Finance Officer Association, providing good counsel to his colleagues from other municipalities and to the General Assembly about ways to efficiently modernize finance systems.

During their long service, the finance office was transformed from manual, hard copy bookkeeping to a digitized, data analytical system that might have overwhelmed many of us. Instead they both embraced change and made sure that Vernon taxpayers and public officials had the benefit of 21st century technology, providing efficiency and savings.

In addition to being the Finance Director, Jim wore many other hats in his tenure with the town government. He was first appointed to the town's Fine Arts Commission and has been a part of the Computer Authority Study, the Data Processing Advisory Board, and the Study Committee for School Renovations Bond Referendum over the years. In 1989, James was appointed town treasurer. Eventually he became the liaison to the Capital Improvement Committee.

Diane, who was hired in 1985 during the Herbst administration, has been the lead in her office managing most projects and overseeing day to day operations. She has served under 11 mayors, and her smart, cheerful competence was instrumental in carrying out the mission of the Finance Department.

On a personal note, I have been friends with both Jim and Diane for many years, having been the law partner of Jim's uncle, Leo Flaherty, for 20 years. I have always admired their lively intellect, great sense of humor, mutual support for U Conn basketball—men and women, the Boston Celtics, and deep passion for the town of Vernon's unique, diverse community and amazing history.

Jim and Diane deserve all the accolades they will receive in the coming days as they end this chapter in their lives. I fully expect however, that after recharging their batteries they will find other ways to contribute to the community they love, and we will be better off for it. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking James and Diane for being model citizens.

HONORING HENRY CAMPBELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a talented and driven man Mr. Henry Campbell. Mr. Campbell has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve his community.

Henry Campbell a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, MS was born on November 26, 1957 to Margaret Campbell and Henry Coleman, the youngest of eight children.

Henry Campbell graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1975 as a student and successful athlete. His athletic talents in baseball landed him an opportunity to be drafted by the New York Yankees, but he chose to attend college instead. Campbell earned a baseball scholarship to Jackson State University where he played from 1976 through 1978, while he studied in Physical Education.

After college, Campbell enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years as a Supply Specialist at the National Guard Armory in Yazoo City, MS. Campbell started working for Yazoo City when he took a job as a maintenance person for Yazoo Housing Authority. He was later accepted a job as Manager for the Wardell Leach Recreational Complex which he managed from 1999 through 2009. In 2009 he became the Director of Parks and Recreation. After 20 years with Yazoo City he has decided to retire and spend his time hunting, fishing and traveling.

Campbell is married to Joyce Williams and to that union they have five children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Henry Campbell for his desire to make a difference in the lives of children and the community.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOCA RATON'S OPAL AWARDS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the important work done by the Rotary Club of Boca Raton and to congratulate the recipients of their Outstanding People and Leaders (OPAL) awards. This year's honorees are Billi and Bernie Marcus, Jerry and Joan Glassman, Frank and Laura Frione, Summer Faerman, and Reverend Bill Mitchell.

Each of these honorees have made a lasting impact on our South Florida community. Their philanthropy, service, and selfless sacrifices have touched countless lives.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. Looking ahead in this new year, I am confident that the Rotary Club of Boca Raton will continue to be a cherished institution in South Florida that betters our community. I greatly appreciate the Club's work and am pleased to honor their OPAL award honorees.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMANDA EDMONDS FOR HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE YPSILANTI COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amanda Edmonds for her service to our southeastern Michigan community and Growing Hope, an Ypsilanti based non-profit, over the past 15 years. She has enriched countless lives as a local leader and Executive Director of Growing Hope.

Raised in Missouri, Ms. Edmonds has been a passionate community leader and social justice advocate since she was a young student. After receiving her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, Ms. Edmonds became involved as a volunteer in Ypsilanti in 1999. She started volunteering at Perry Learning Garden, now Growing Hope, in Ypsilanti and is looked to as a leader in sustainable gardening, economic development and local food access. Through her passion for food sustainability, she worked to expand the Perry Learning Garden into Growing Hope, a non-profit that serves southeastern Michigan communities with start-up and gardening assistance, teaching classes, and hosting local farmer's markets.

Ms. Edmonds is a beloved leader in our community and has served as the Mayor of Ypsilanti since 2014. As Growing Hope's Executive Director, Ms. Edmonds has greatly expanded the facility's urban farm and instituted teaching programs for students and adults all throughout Michigan. The program serves as an example for other sustainable urban farms, and Ms. Edmonds travels to share how Growing Hope's success can be mirrored in other communities throughout the country. Her work as Growing Hope's Executive Director has seen her appointed to the Michigan Food Policy Council, where she chaired the Healthy Food Access Task Force for the state, as well as Vice Chair of the Washtenaw Food Policy Council and Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Committee. Ms. Edmonds has been an invaluable leader at Growing Hope, and we look forward to her continued positive impact on our Michigan community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Amanda Edmonds as she retires from her position at Growing Hope. Her work has bettered Ypsilanti's food sustainability and access for years to come.

IN HONOR OF 2018 NASCAR HALL
OF FAME INDUCTEE ROBERT
"RED" BYRON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the racing legend Robert Byron upon his induction into the ninth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

If it weren't for men like Robert Byron, there is no doubt the racing industry as we know it